

MARVEL
COMICS

THE MIGHTY TOR GODSTORM



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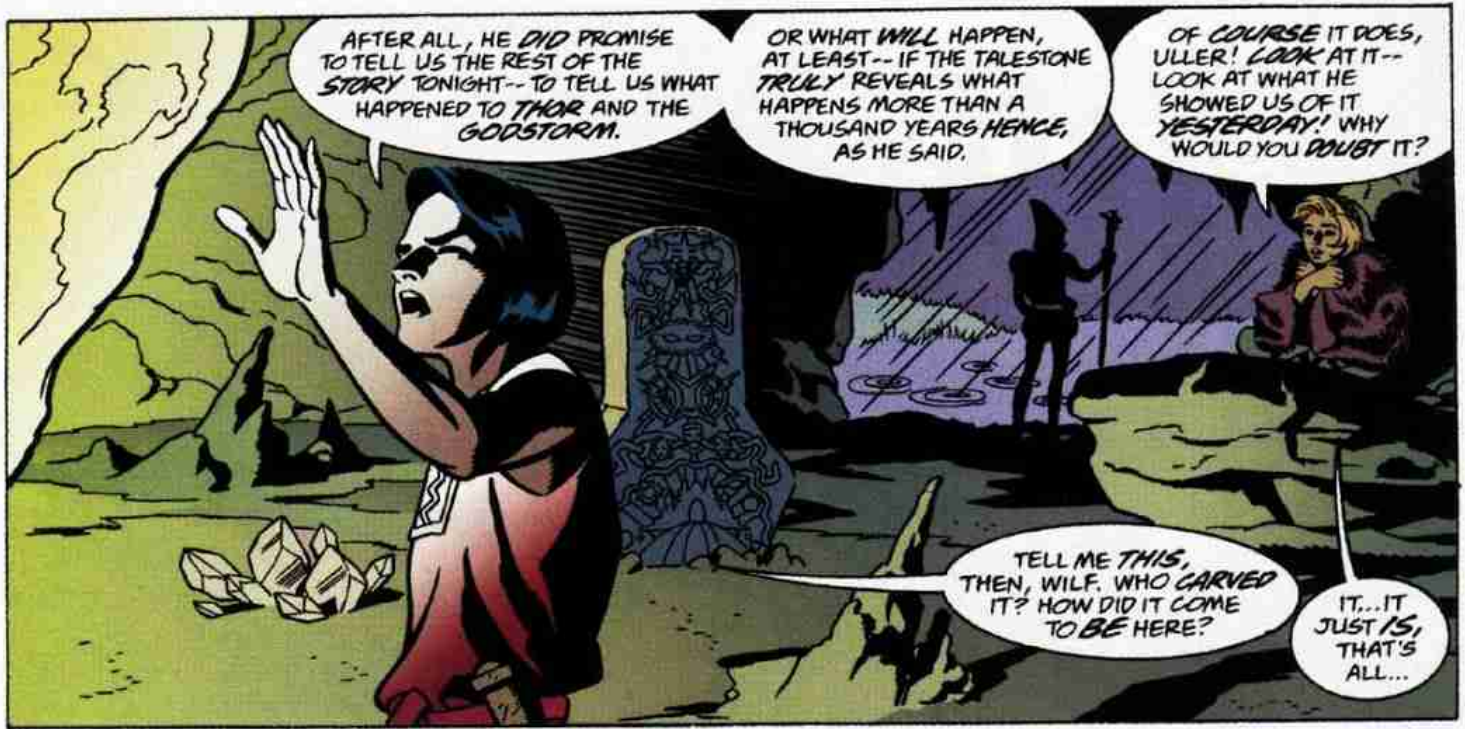


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THE PROMISE THAT WAS KEPT





AFTER ALL, HE *DID* PROMISE TO TELL US THE REST OF THE STORY TONIGHT-- TO TELL US WHAT HAPPENED TO *THOR* AND THE *GODSTORM*.

OR WHAT *WILL* HAPPEN, AT LEAST-- IF THE *TALESTONE TRULY* REVEALS WHAT HAPPENS MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS HENCE, AS HE SAID,

OF COURSE IT DOES, ULLER! LOOK AT IT-- LOOK AT WHAT HE SHOWED US OF IT *YESTERDAY*! WHY WOULD YOU *DOUBT* IT?

TELL ME THIS, THEN, WILF. WHO CARVED IT? HOW DID IT COME TO BE HERE?

IT...IT JUST *IS*, THAT'S ALL...

AYE-- AS THESE *GLOWING* CARVINGS JUST *ARE*, I WARRANT. WE'VE ROAMED THESE HILLS SINCE WE COULD WALK, WILF--

AND WE NEVER FOUND THIS *CAVE* BEFORE. I KNOW.

BUT THAT MAKES ME BELIEVE IT ALL THE *MORE*-- WERE IT SOME *LOW PRANK*, HOW COULD THE *CAVE*-- THE *TALESTONE*-- JUST *APPEAR*?

STILL, I *WONDER*--

HAD WE COME *ANOTHER* NIGHT, OR WITH *ANOTHER* QUESTION TO ASK--

-- WOULD THE *STONE* HAVE SHOWN A *DIFFERENT* STORY?

AND HOW COULD IT, FINGER-LINGS? IT IS *COLD, LIFELESS* *STONE*. YOU THINK IT *CHOOSSES* WHAT TO BE?

NO, BUT...

ENOUGH. WE MUST RESUME OUR *TALE*.

SEE, AT THE *TOP* OF THE *TALESTONE*-- SEE WHAT WE HAVE *LEARNED* THUS FAR...



We did see a young man of WESTERN LANDS come to these SHORES, and saw that he was the THUNDER GOD in human form...

And we did see his path cross that of two troubled NORTH-MEN... the sea-faring BETTINA and her brother BROM, who held the talisman...

...the CHIP of THOR's hammer given in gratitude to his ANCESTOR, long, long ago.

But the circle was not yet COMPLETE. For the giftstone had been presented to a brave Viking for AIDING the Thunderer...

...aiding him when SCHEMING LOKI had twisted the spirit of the most powerful of the storms that rage in our skies.

The godstorm had been DEFEATED, however, and trapped beneath the SEAFLOOR, where...

THE GREAT MACHINE! THE MACHINE ON THE WATERS, WHERE THE MAN BROM LABORED! IT AUGURED INTO THE SEAFLOOR!

IT WAS GOING TO BREAK THROUGH! TO FREE THE GODSTORM!

DID BROM RETURN TO THE MACHINE IN TIME? DID THOR ARRIVE AND PREVENT THE GOD-STORM'S RELEASE?





FREE!

AFTER ALL THE LONG CENTURIES! ALL THE AGONY OF CONFINEMENT...

...I AM FREE! FREE TO TASTE THE AIR ONCE MORE! AND FREE, MOREOVER...

... TO TASTE **REVENGE!**



Leagues away, at a TRAVELER'S REST to the south, where the man Jake Olson had taken lodgings...

LISTEN TO THOSE WINDS! HOWLING THROUGH THE FJORDS LIKE THAT, I COULD ALMOST--

--ALMOST--



WAIT A MINUTE. I DO HEAR A VOICE IN THE WINDS. AND SOMEHOW, I CAN FEEL IT--

--IT'S CONNECTED WITH WHATEVER DREW ME HERE!



DREW ME...

FOOM

...AND THE MIGHTY THOR!











--AND IT IS
BETWEEN THOSE
TWO FORCES THAT
THOU SHALT
BE CRUSHED!

And it is at that
moment that the
man Brom, tossed
amid churning
seas, breaks
through the
mists...

IT'S NOT--NOT
POSSIBLE--!







O-O-KAY!

BUT BROM... MIKKEL
WENT... TO RADIO FOR
HELP! DIDN'T... COME
BACK!

GOT IT! NOW GET A LIFE-JACKET
AND GET TO THE BOAT, ARNE! WAIT
FIVE MINUTES FOR ANYONE
ELSE--

--AND THEN GO!
GET BACK TO LAND--
DON'T WAIT!



SMOKE!

IF MIKKEL'S TRAPPED
IN THERE--PASSED
OUT--



UNNNH!:

MIKKEL! MIKKEL,
YOU IN HERE? IT'S
BROM!

B-BROM...



EASY, MIKKEL. I GOT
YOU--YOU'RE GONNA BE
ALL RIGHT.

WE... WE HIT
SOMETHING...
SOMETHING BIG!
SHAFT... BUCKLED...
COULDN'T HOLD
IT...

IT'S OKAY,
MIKKEL.
IT'S OKAY.



And at that
moment,
high above...

AHH!
WHAT A
SIGHT!

WHAT A
SIGHT TO
GLADDEN EVEN
A GOD'S
EYE!



MY HATED HALF-
BROTHER-- **HUMILIATED**
BEFORE ME BY A POWER
I ENGINEERED-- A FOE
WHOSE HEART I POISONED!

A DELICIOUS
MOMENT-- AND
ALMOST ENOUGH
--**ALMOST!**
BUT HOW
SWEET IT WILL
BE-- HOW
UNIMAGINABLY
SWEET--

--WHEN LOKI'S
IS THE HAND
THAT DELIVERS
THE FINAL
BLOW!







AND BROM?
WHERE IS
BROM
ANDERS?!

LAST I SAW, HE WAS TRYIN'
TO GET THROUGH A FIRE--
REACH WILLY IN THE CONTROL
ROOM. BRAVEST THING
I EVER SAW.



BUT EVEN IF HE MAKES IT--
THE LIFEBOATS ARE ALL
SMASHED. THERE'S NO
WAY OUT.

I DON'T THINK
HE'S COMIN'
BACK...!

BROM--!



AND NOW, DEAR BROTHER-- I TURN TO THEE!
THOU WERT HELPLESS 'GAINST THE
GODSTORM--

--AND WILL
BE ALL THE MORESO
'GAINST LOKI!'

DO THY WORST,
LOKI! THOU SHALT
NOT FIND ME
WANTING!



BAH! ONE
STORMBLAST
WILL SUFFICE
TO--

BKAM!



EH?! THOU DOST MOVE SWIFTLY
INDEED, WHEN FEAR DOGS THY
HEELS! BUT THOU COULD NOT
E'EN OUTWIT A MASS OF
VAPOR, CLOTHHEAD--

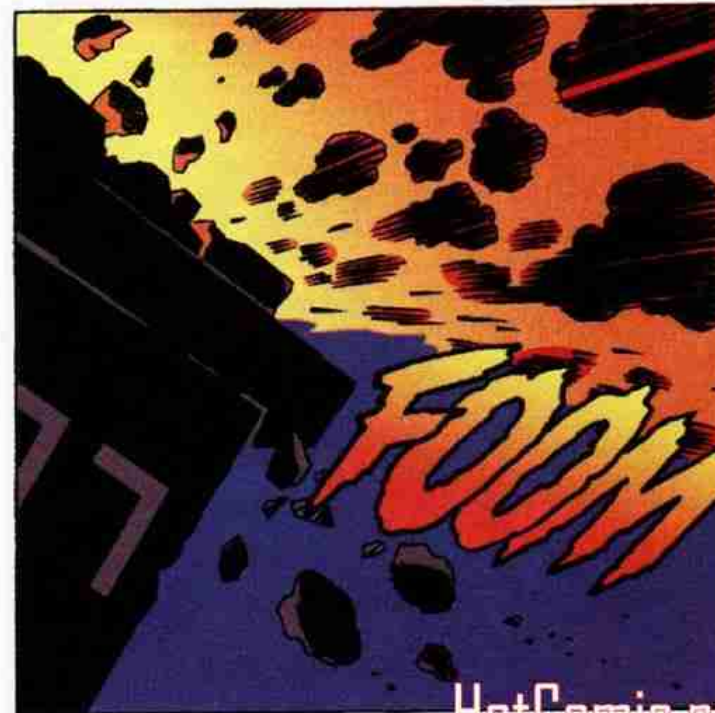
--AND NOW ALL ITS POWER
IS AT THE COMMAND OF A
MASTER SORCERER!



WHY LIMIT MYSELF TO MERE MAIL,
FOR INSTANCE-- WHEN MY SKILL
ALLOWS ME TO DO FAR, FAR
MORE!

ODIN'S
BEARD!

ICEBERGS!



High above, the godstorm, little more than a mist, watched...

I... HAVE BEEN A FOOL!

I THOUGHT MYSELF MIGHTY... THOUGHT MYSELF ABOVE GODS AND MORTALS BOTH... BUT LOKI TRICKED ME, USED ME...

... AS IF I WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A BEAST OF BURDEN.

THOR'S COURAGE AND STEADFASTNESS KNOW NO LIMIT... AND YET I SAW HIM AS A SELFISH TYRANT!

EVEN THE MORTALS... THEY BRAVE DEATH TO HELP THEIR FELLOWS, BUT I...

SNATCH

WAIT! WHAT DO I SENSE...

...DEEP IN MY MIND...?

HAH! SNATCHED THEE FROM THE AIR LIKE A LEAF IN A--**AAHHGGHH!**

THOUGH THOU MAY BE SWIFT AS A TORNADO, LOKI-- STILL THOU SHALT NOT FIND THE GOD OF THUNDER EASY PREY!

I HAVE THE POWER HERE, THOR!

BLUSTER AND RAGE ALL THOU MAY CHOOSE-- BUT 'T WILL CHANGE NOTHING! LOKI IS VICTORIOUS! LOKI IS ASCENDANT!

SEE? E'EN NOW, THE SKIES MASS AND DARKEN, IN HOMAGE TO MY GREATNESS! I AM THE STORM NOW! NOT THEE-- NEVERMORE THEE!

KRACK!!

TRICKERY AND GUILF HATH TRIUMPHED-- AND POWER IS MY REWARD!

DOST THOU FEEL IT, THOR? THE POWER THAT COURSES THROUGH ME? THE POWER THAT WILL KILL THEE?

FEEL THY LIFE EBB AWAY-- AND KNOW THAT DESPISED, CUNNING LOKI HATH PROVEN THY BETTER!

THOU ART... DELUDED, LOKI!

AND THOR... SHALL... BE...





And what seemed like an ETERNITY later...



:-KOFF:-

YOU
DID
IT!

HE'S
BREATHING!



F-FATHER...?



YES, MY
SON.

I'M HERE, I'M
HERE.



DIDST THOU THINK THOU RULED
ALL OF US, LOKI-- MERELY
BECAUSE THOU DIDST TRICK
ONE OF OUR NUMBER?

ALL THOU DIDST
COMMAND WAS THE
WINDS AND THE
LIGHTNINGS OF
THIS ONE REGION.

AND EVEN SO,
THOR WAS ABLE
TO CALL TO THY
CATSPAW--THE ONE
THOU CALLED
"GODSTORM"--AND
ME, IN TURN, CALLED
UPON US.



AND NOW, LITTLE AESIR, THOU MUST PAY THE
PRICE-- THE PRICE FOR THY LYING,
TREACHEROUS TONGUE--

N-NO! MY
POWER! MY
POWER--

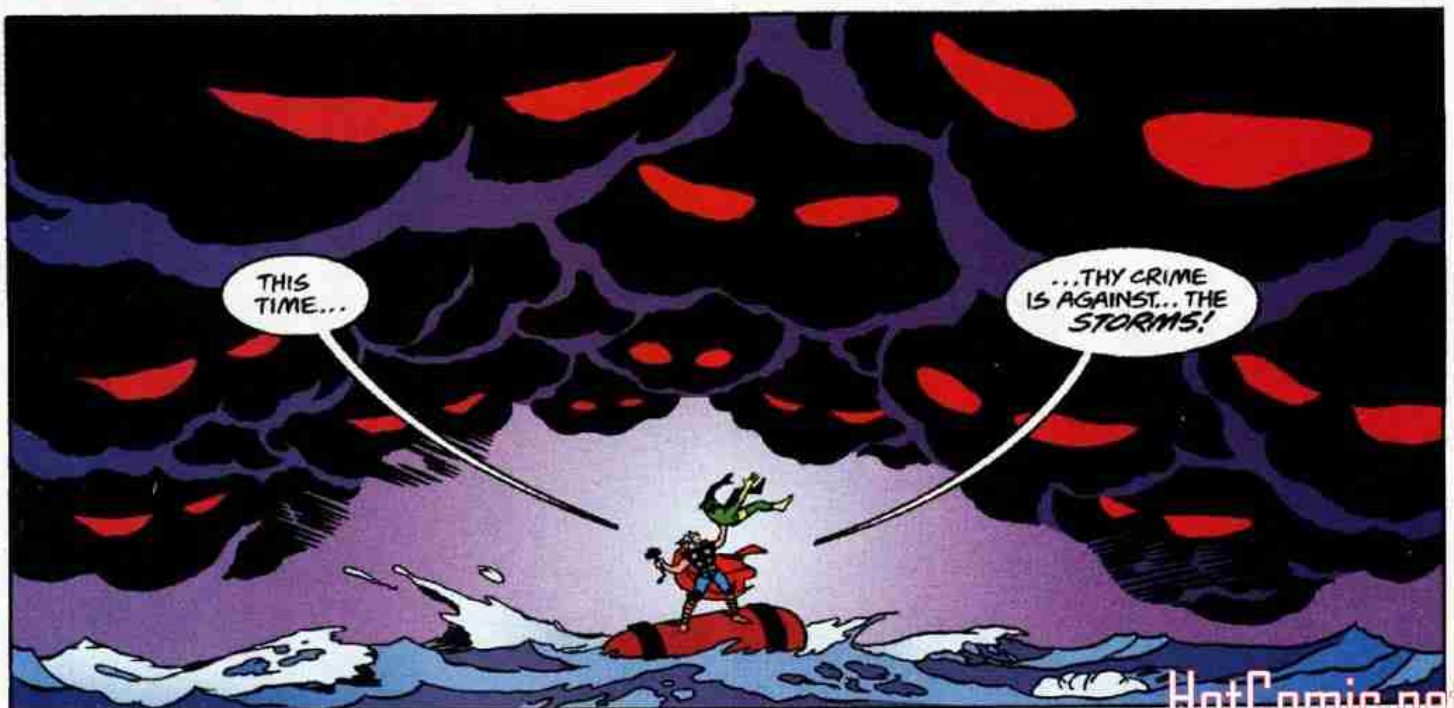


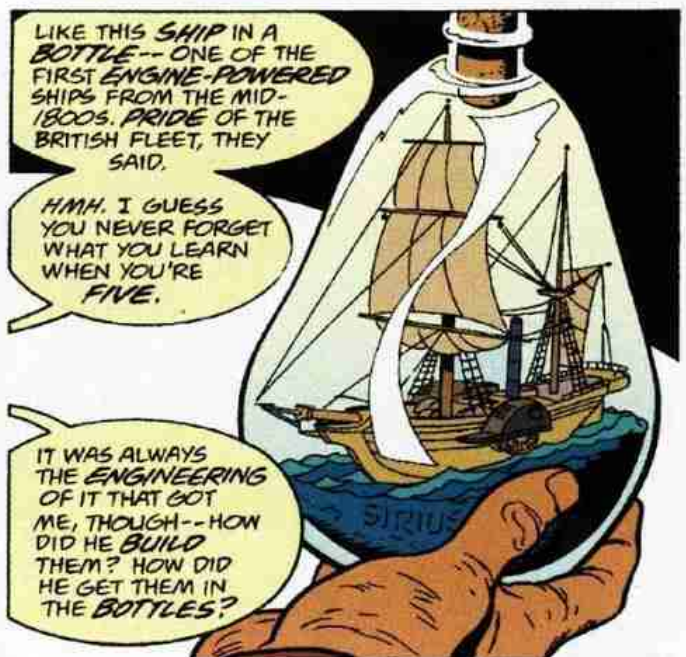
-- AND FOR DARING TO
USURP THE POWER
OF THE STORMS...!

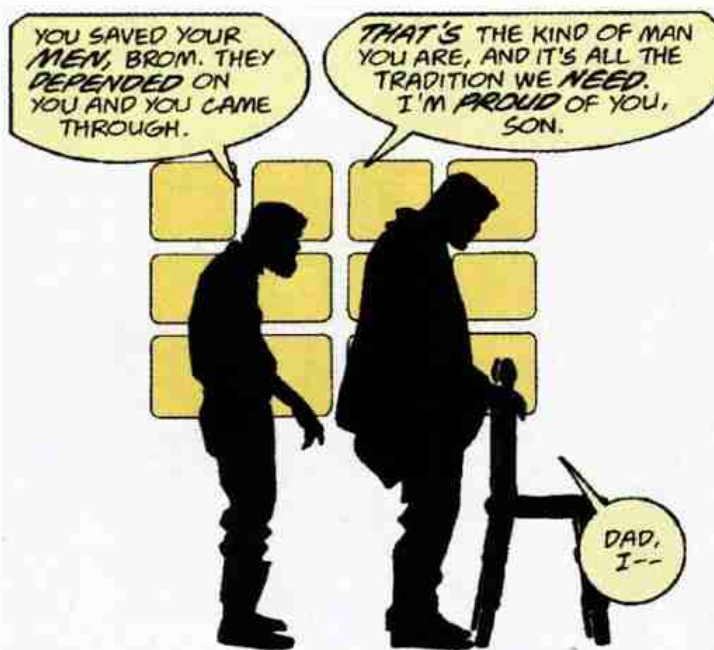
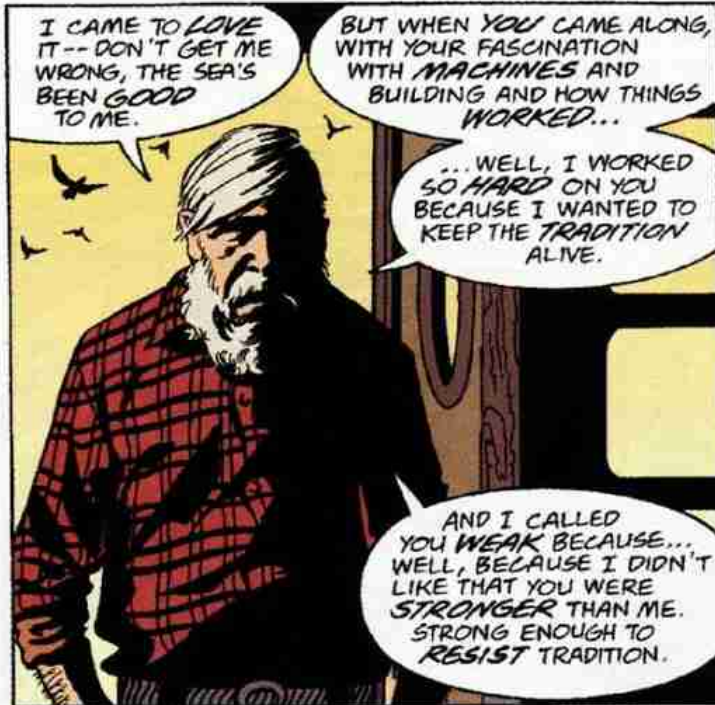
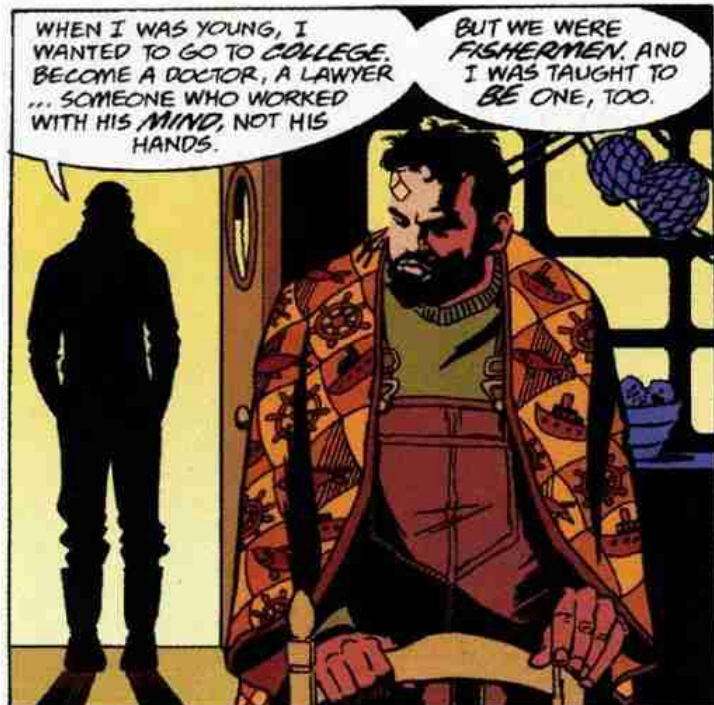
--IT'S--

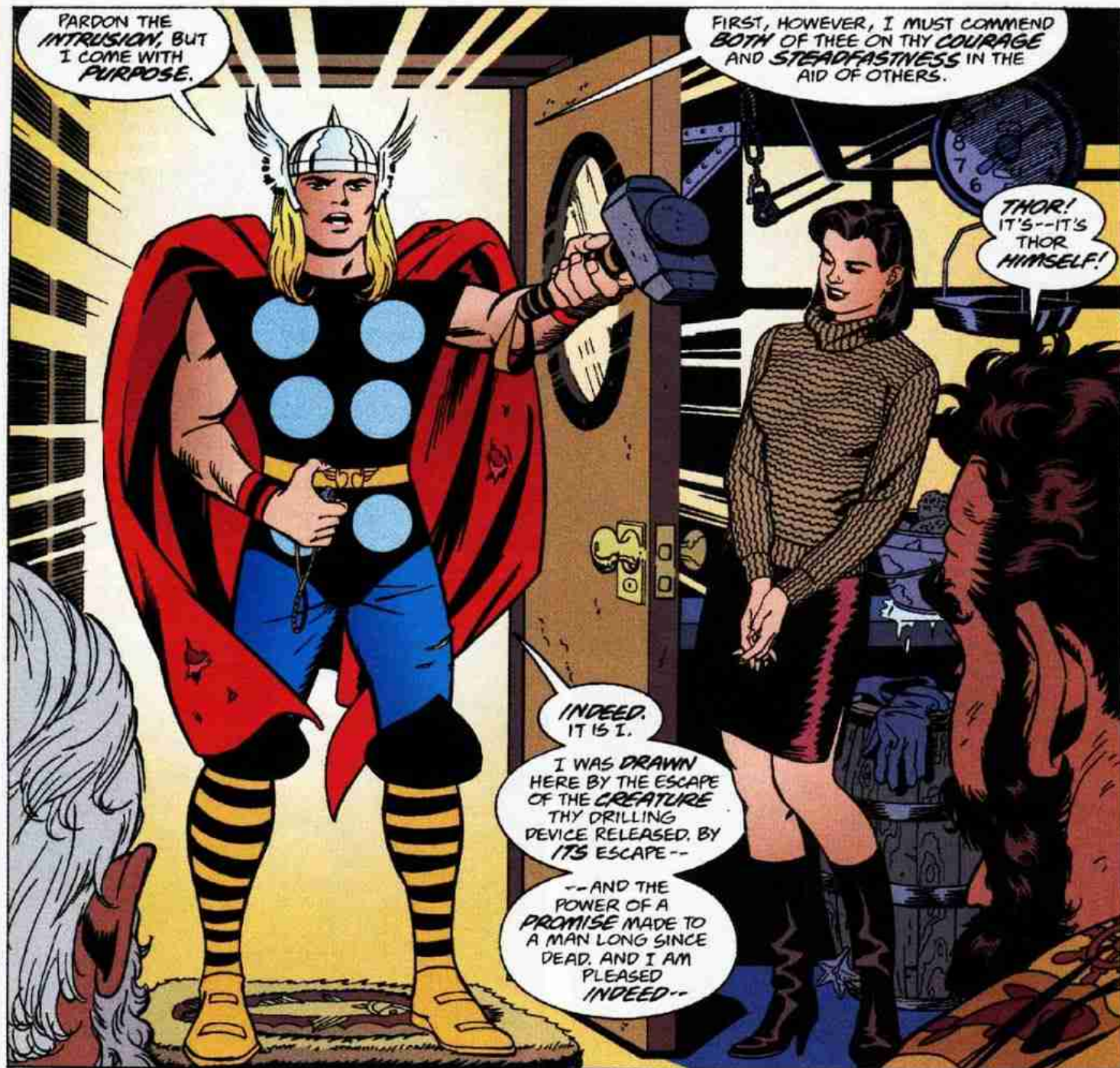


--IT'S
GONE...









PARDON THE
INTRUSION, BUT
I COME WITH
PURPOSE.

FIRST, HOWEVER, I MUST COMMEND
BOTH OF THEE ON THY COURAGE
AND STEADFASTNESS IN THE
AID OF OTHERS.

THOR!
IT'S--IT'S
THOR
HIMSELF!

INDEED.
IT IS I.

I WAS DRAWN
HERE BY THE ESCAPE
OF THE CREATURE
THY DRILLING
DEVICE RELEASED. BY
ITS ESCAPE--

--AND THE
POWER OF A
PROMISE MADE TO
A MAN LONG SINCE
DEAD. AND I AM
PLEASED
INDEED--



-- TO RETURN TO HIS DESCENDANT
WHAT I GAVE TO HIM, SO
LONG AGO.

DAD--
IN HIS
HAND--!



YES. SOMETHING LOST...
AND THEN FOUND.
SOMETHING THAT
LINKS FATHER
AND SON.

I BELIEVE
IT IS YOURS,
MY FRIEND--



--AND NOW, AS I DID ONCE BEFORE WITH THY ANCESTOR-- I GIFT YOU WITH THIS FRAGMENT OF THE MYSTIC HAMMER MJOLNIR.

I'M-- I'M DEEPLY HONORED, THOR...



THE HONOR IS MINE. AND NOW I GO--

-- BUT I LEAVE THEE WITH THIS: SOME THINGS ARE WORTH PRESERVING, AND SOME ARE NOT. LOVE AND HONOR ARE WORTH MORE THAN GOLD--

-- BUT ANGER, AND HATRED BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS-- WHY WOULD ANYONE, HUMAN OR GOD, WISH TO CLING TO THAT?



But as Thor prepared to depart...

THOR--!

PLEASE, WAIT!



THEY'VE BARELY SPOKEN IN YEARS-- BUT YOU NEVER MET EITHER OF THEM BEFORE! HOW--HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT TO SAY?

I AM NO STRANGER TO FAMILY DISCORD, FAIR ONE.

BUT THEY ARE LUCKY TO HAVE FAMILY WHO CARE. AND THAT CARE FOUND ITS WAY TO THE EAR OF A GOD-- ONE THAT OWES THEIR FAMILY A DEBT.



THEN, THAT STONE CHIP-- IT'S FOR REAL? I'D HEARD ABOUT IT ALL MY LIFE, BUT THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A STORY. I THINK EVEN DAD THOUGHT SO, TOO...

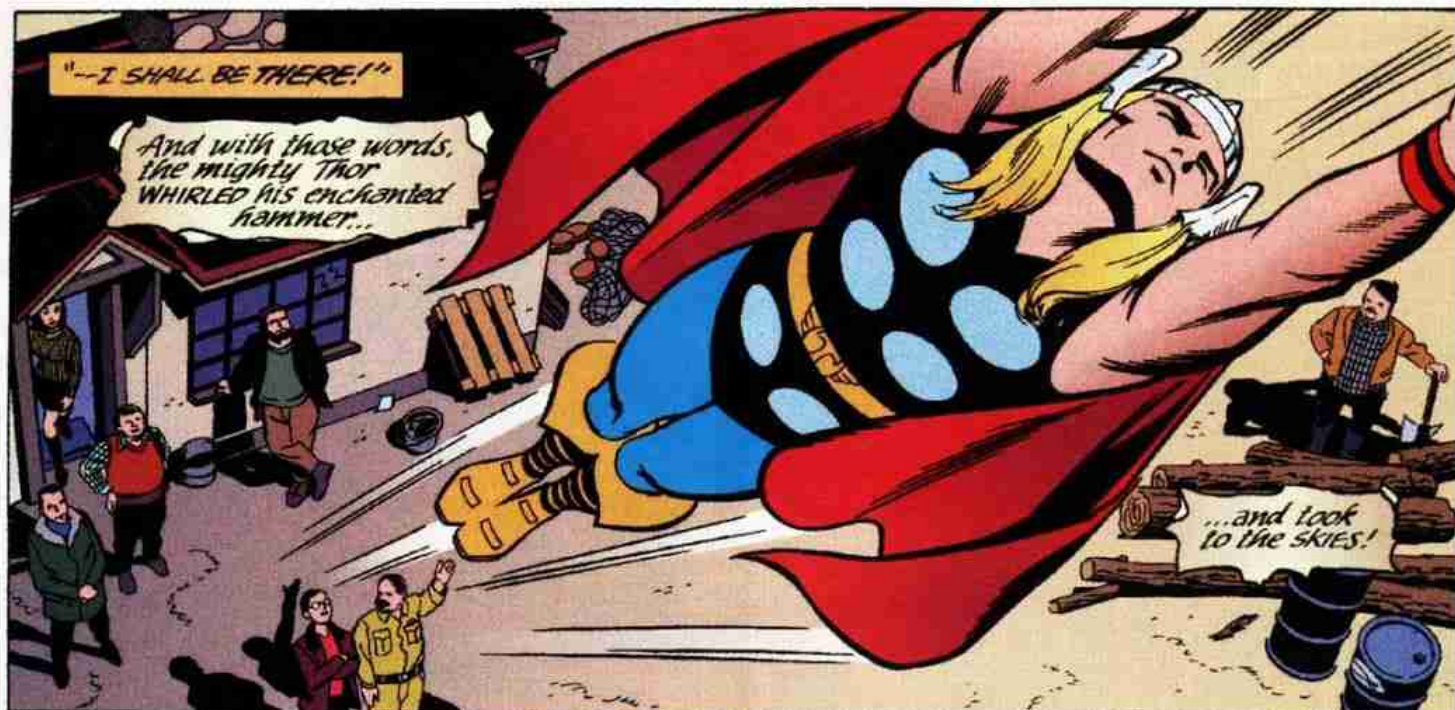
IS IT SO HARD TO IMAGINE, THEN, THAT BRAVERY RUNS IN THY FAMILY? OR THAT I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL?



IT IS THE STRENGTH OF MORTALS, EVEN IN THE FACE OF THEIR OWN FRAILTY, THAT MAKES THEM GREAT. AND FOR ALL MY MIGHT, ALL THE GLORY OF ASGARD--

-- IT IS MEN LIKE THOSE... MEN WHO EPITOMIZE THE BEST MIDGARD HAS TO OFFER... THAT MAKES ME PROUD TO BE A GOD.

SHOULD THOU OR THINE NEED ME AGAIN, BETILJA--

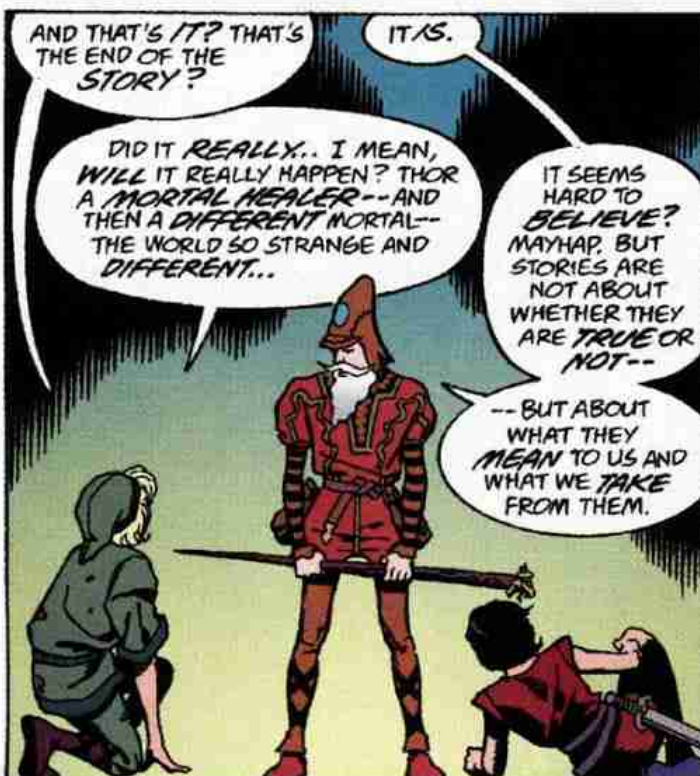




And so it was...

... THAT THOR DID LIVE UP TO THE PROMISE HE'D MADE SO LONG AGO. THE GODSTORM REUNITED ITS FELLOWS... AND A FAMILY WAS BROUGHT TOGETHER.

AND WHAT HAD BEGUN IN RAGE AND DISASTER BECAME A TIME OF HEALING...
... A TIME OF PEACE.



AND THAT'S IT? THAT'S THE END OF THE STORY?

IT IS.

DID IT REALLY... I MEAN, WILL IT REALLY HAPPEN? THOR A MORTAL HEALER-- AND THEN A DIFFERENT MORTAL-- THE WORLD SO STRANGE AND DIFFERENT...

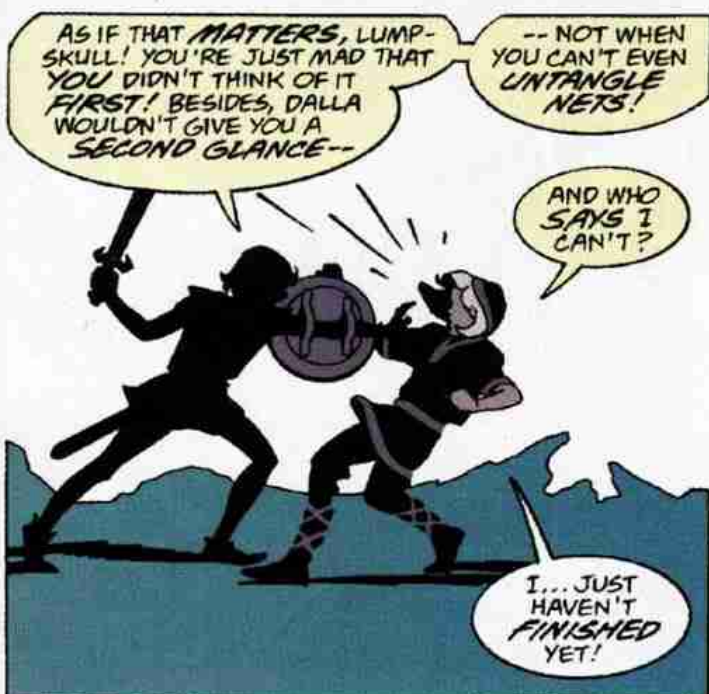
IT SEEMS HARD TO BELIEVE? MAYHAP. BUT STORIES ARE NOT ABOUT WHETHER THEY ARE TRUE OR NOT--

-- BUT ABOUT WHAT THEY MEAN TO US AND WHAT WE TAKE FROM THEM.



THIS LAST OF MY STORIES-- IT WILL NOT HAPPEN, IF TRULY IT DOES, UNTIL LONG AFTER YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN'S CHILDREN ARE BUT A MEMORY.

SO WHAT MATTERS MORE-- IF IT IS FACTUAL? OR WHAT LESSONS IT HOLDS, AND HOW IT SHAPES OUR LIVES?









Book Three

DIRECT EDITION



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